



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sacrament of Communion
Fourth Sunday of Lent
10 March 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment Portraits of Peace

Voluntary Canon in a-minor Robert Schumann

*Ringing of the Bell *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

* Call to Worship

Leader: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

People: **The journey begins in the wilderness.**

Leader: We follow the way of Jesus,
who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

People: **Like Jesus, we are not alone.**

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's word is on our lips.

Leader: As we journey closer to Holy Week, we remember the
wonder and mystery of Christ's willingness to join us in
our humanity and embrace the cross.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*Lenten Candle Service

As we extinguish the fourth Lenten candle, we marvel at the integrity with which Christ journeyed to the cross and the strength with which he absorbed the hostility and injustice of this world. In so doing, Christ proclaimed the love of God on the cross. Let us pray:

Loving God, thank you for the Word becoming flesh in Christ Jesus and the journey of love he traveled to Calvary. Amen.

*Hymn 826 Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and loving God, thank you for entering the broken places of our hearts to shed light and bring healing. Forgive us for our hesitancy to face our fears and anxieties, for our resistance to embrace the crosses life presents us, and for the times we prefer darkness to light and silence to speaking the truth. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

***Sung Response**

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon
and Passing of the Peace**

Leader:

Friends, believe the good news.

People:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Leader:

The peace of Christ be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Leader:

Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, Back Cover

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end, Amen, Amen.

Children's Sermon

Congregational Response

Create in Me a Clean Heart

John Carter

**Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.**

*Children (preschool – Grade 5) go to Sunday School following the
Congregational Response. Grades 6-7 remain for communion.*

First Scripture Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

Pew Bible, OT pages 139

Second Scripture Reading

John 3:9-16

Pew Bible, NT pages 94

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God.

Meditation Light and Cross Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Text: And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up...John 3:14

Anthem In This Moment of Remembrance Dale Wood
In this moment of remembrance the sacrament is spread;
Here we celebrate Christ's presence through the wine and broken bread. At this table of communion, in the light shed from above, we are sheltered in God's mercy and surrounded by God's love.
There is healing and forgiveness, there is strength as we partake. Here we know the Savior's promise that he never will forsake. "Take and do this in remembrance," are the words our Savior said; and we join now in his presence through the wine and broken bread.

The Presentation and Dedication of our Gifts *At this time all worshipers are invited to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

Offertory Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness Johannes Brahms

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.

The people sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine...

Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, page 35

Words of Institution

Communion Music

This is the Hour of Banquet and Song

David Mitchell

Distribution of Elements

The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.

Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.

***Prayer after Communion**

Merciful God, in Jesus Christ you have shown your love for the world in the irony of the cross. Accept the offering of our lives, give us insight and understanding of how this can be, and help us be for the world an emblem of your steadfast love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn 215** What Wondrous Love is This

Wondrous Love

***Charge and Benediction**

Closing Response Forth in Thy Name

Orlando Gibbons

Voluntary Fugue

Robert Schumann

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Christian K. Choi
- **Acolytes:** Taryn Barnett and Kate Bryans
- **Bible & Cross Carriers:** Carter Magalis and Sam Simonson
- **Greeters:** Julie and Mike Sundquist
- **Lenten Candle Service:** Dr. Scott Day and Sabrina Holmes from Worship, Music & Arts Committee
- **Today's Communion Bread** is English muffin bread and was lovingly baked by Pat Hymans.
- **Communion Prep Team:** Mary Ray, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward, Krista Steller
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Judy Knox (Team Leader), John Cross, Kristianna Eastvold, Rachael Hickman, Gregg Humphrey, Dave Leonatti, Vena Long, Pat McNutt, Mary Ray, Julie Robbs, Greg Swanson, Jeanne Van Gieson
- **Home Communion Teams:** Judy Knox and Bruce Strom, Becky Huston and Aaron Berkowitz, Melanie and Bud Green
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir; Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** George Botanga (Head Usher), Julie Barton, Deb Fritsch, Sabrina Holmes, Melanie Humphrey, Kathy Kenyon. Julie McDonough, John McNutt
- **Safety Team:** Marilyn Rigney and Todd Knox
- **Videographers:** Bob Fox and Krista Steller

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:00 a.m. – New Member Class (Pastor's Study)** Those interested in joining Westminster are invited to a time of learning about Westminster and the PC(USA). Led by Dr. Kieffer
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "I Can Forgive My Family" (Joseph and his brothers) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Leigh Milward*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m.**
 - **Sunday School Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is "Good Works" (Ephesians 2:1-10). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz, Sara Eldridge, Abigail Eldridge*

- **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response. The story is “Good Works” (Ephesians 2:1-10). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Karen Sherrick*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon**
 - **Confirmation Grade 8 (Conference Room)** meet for Lessons Thirteen and Fourteen: “Divide and Reconcile” and “Presbyterian Polity” from Church History, *Led by Dr. Peter Kieffer and Mary Ray*
 - **Adult Education Forum presents Rooted in Faith (Parish Hall)** The second of a three-part session titled “Rooted in Faith” explores the spiritual symbolism of trees in the Bible and Christian tradition. *Led by Dr. Katie Carlson-Eastvold*
- **4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Youth Group (Parish Hall)** “God’s Gift of Sexuality” Seminar will be presented in an extended gathering by Rev. Dr. Blythe and Dr. Peter Kieffer. Leaders: Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy and Mary Ray. Meal prepared by Christie and Robyn Hovey.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

H.E.A.L. FUND provides “helpful emergency assistance for living” to members of the Springfield community through Contact Ministries and within our church family as needed. Donations are welcome. This fund is highlighted on Communion Sundays.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OPPORTUNITY - Join in the renovation work of 518 S. Glenwood in preparation for its sale. Dates and times are available at SignUpGenius on the church home page.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets **Monday, March 11, 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Sue Sawers will lead Lesson 7 & 8 “An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus and Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study.

MEN’S BREAKFAST will be **Thursday, March 14 at 8:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Dr. Richard Leary will speak on “Mary Magdalene: A Tower of Faith.” This is a classic story of a woman wronged. David Jenkins will provide breakfast and Rev. Choi will present devotions. Please RSVP on our website.

LENTEN REFUGEE SPRING CLEANING scheduled for **Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** In anticipation of our Spanish speaking refugee family of four arriving in April, we invite members to join the Refugee Ministry Committee in preparing their new home at 522 S. Glenwood. Household items are listed on SignUpGenius as well as at a table in the West Narthex.

NEW MEMBERS will be recognized **Sunday, March 17** at 10:00 a.m. service following a Special Session meeting at 9:30 a.m.

PORTRAITS OF PEACE on **Sunday, March 17, at 4:00 p.m.** This program features both music and drama celebrating the lives of civil rights leaders Rosa Parks and the Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian. Dr. Sharon Willis of Atlanta, Georgia, a composer, playwright, and actress will be joined with organist, Linda Andrews, tenor, Alfonso Cooper, Jr., and pianist, Dale Rogers for Portraits of Peace.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets **Tuesday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Ziegler Library. Betsy Ruklick will host and lead Lesson 6 “A Person with a Physical Disability” from the 2023 Horizon’s Bible Study.

LANDSCAPE GUILD SPRING CLEAN UP is **Thursday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m.** Those interested in joining the guild members are welcome.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) meets **Friday March 22**. Potluck starts at 5:30 followed by the program at 6:15 p.m. Fred and Carolyn Gerberding will provide the program Twin Bee Apiaries and will have locally sourced honey for sale. Call the church office for reservations.

LENTEN GIVING

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** denominational offering provides relief to those affected by natural disasters, food to the hungry, and empowerment for the poor and oppressed. The **Lenten Coat Drive Box** is located in the West Narthex for our annual collection of new or gently used coats. As of Friday, March 8 we have collected 55 coats.

The **Easter Music and Decorations Funds** welcome donations of \$25 each. For both giving opportunities, a list of donors and those whom they are remembering are printed in the Easter bulletin. Make checks to WPC with the appropriate designations or pay online using the church website. The deadline for the bulletin wording is Monday, March 25.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 24
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach. During the 10:00 a.m. worship service, Sunday school children and youth will lead us in the processional with palms and their One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes. The center aisle pews will be lined with donated coats. The Westminster Children's Choir will sing and the Westminster Choir will sing "Sing For Joy" of Handel and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."

The Passion of Christ Art Display
March 24-31 in Parish Hall

Artwork depicting the Passion of Christ will be displayed in Parish Hall. Through the eyes of renowned artists, we will witness Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week leading to His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Westminster's Labyrinth will be displayed in Parish Hall during Holy Week for those who would like to practice this discipline of prayer.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, March 28
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Christian K. Choi will preach, and the Westminster Choir will sing "I Wonder Why," "See Now the Lamb of God," and "An Offering." This service will include the solemn stripping of the Chancel accompanied by the "Adagio for Strings" of Samuel Barber and the seven words of Christ.

Easter Sunday, March 31
10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer will preach, and the Westminster Choir will be joined by members of the Millikin Brass in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," "This is the Day the Lord Hath Made," "Easter Rejoicing" and other festive music for Easter Day. The Chancel will be filled with the cross of lilies, a cherished tradition at Westminster.

Easter Egg Hunt in Parish Hall follows 10:00 a.m. Worship.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, March 11

- 1:00 PM Elizabeth Circle (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM Symphony Gala Committee (2nd Floor Classroom)

Tuesday, March 12

- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 12:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 Lunch
(2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 3:00 PM COMPASS for Kids

Wednesday, March 13

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group
(Conference Room)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 4:45 PM Fiscal Committee (Pastor's Study)
- 5:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
- 5:30 PM Board of Deacons (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)
- 7:00 PM Great Decision in WACCI
(3rd Floor Classroom)

Thursday, March 14

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast (Parish Hall)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, March 15

- 11:00 AM Memorial for Alyona Sterling Beckner

Saturday, March 16

- 8:00 AM PEO Founders Day Brunch (Parish Hall)
- 9:00 AM Refugee House Work Day (Off site)
- 11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM Betty Dawkins Visitation (West Narthex)
- 2:00 PM Betty Dawkins Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 PM Family Matters Movie Night (3rd Floor Chapel)

Sunday, March 17

- 9:30 AM New Members meet with Session (Library)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Confirmation Grades 6&7 (Conference Room)
- 11:15 AM Fair Trade Sale (West Narthex)
- 11:15 AM Youth Mission Team meeting (2nd Floor Classrm)
- 11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)
- 4:00 PM Portraits of Peace Concert & Play (Sanctuary)

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WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Christian K. Choi
Associate Pastor for Parish Life

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Mary Ray
Director for Youth

Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

Katie Moore
Director for Children's Music

Millie McNutt, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

Emily Rowley, Keri Tate
Cooperative Preschool Staff

Ellen Carpenter
Parish Nurse

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Jennie Alt
Church Administrative Assistant

Krista Steller
Communications Coordinator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl**
Part-time Custodians